IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	)	
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H. EBERLE, *et al.*	)	Group Art Unit: *To be assigned*
	)	
Serial No.: *Continuation of*: U.S. Application Serial No.09/455,527	)	Examiner: *To be assigned*
	)	
Filed: February 12, 2002	)	

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE CREATION AND AUTOMATIC DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONALIZED, DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE VOICE SERVICES WITH CUSTOMIZED MESSAGE DEPENDING ON RECIPIENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to initial examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as set forth below. Applicants present a marked-up version of the changes made to the Specification in Attachment A.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the first paragraph of the application:

--**Cross-Reference To Related Applications**

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/455,527, filed December 7, 1999, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE CREATION AND AUTOMATIC DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONALIZED, DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE VOICE SERVICES WITH CUSTOMIZED MESSAGE DEPENDING ON RECIPIENT."--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step 230, the duration of the service is also set. Service duration indicates the starting and stopping dates for the service. Setting a service duration may be appropriate regardless of whether a scheduled service or alert type service has been selected. The start date is the base line for the scheduled calculation, while the end date indicates when the voice service will no longer be sent. The service may start immediately or at some later time. According to one embodiment, the interface is provided to allow the administrator to input start and end dates. The interface may also allow the administrator to indicate that the service should start immediately or run indefinitely. Various calendar features may be provided to facilitate selection of start and stop dates. For example, a calendar that specifies a date with

pull-down menus that allow selection of a day, month and year may be provided according to known methods of selecting dates in such programs as electronic calendar programs and scheduling programs used in other software products. One specific aid that may be provided is to provide a calendar with a red circle indicating the present date and a blue ellipse around the current numerical date in each subsequent month to more easily allow the user to identify monthly intervals. Other methods may also be used.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Servers may have limited capacity to perform all of the actions required of them simultaneously, the method of Figure 1b comprises a step for prioritizing the execution and delivery of voice services. Prioritization may establish the order in which the voice service system allocates resources for processing voice service and delivering the IVB. According to one embodiment, assigning priority to a voice service establishes priority for queries to the database system, formatting the voice service, or IVBs. Any criteria may be used for establishing priority. According to one embodiment, priority is established based on service content. According to another embodiment, priority is based on service destination. According to another embodiment, priority may be established based on the type of voice service, *i.e.*, alert v. scheduled. Any number of procedures or criteria for denoting relative importance of service delivery may be established.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--After a call structure is generated, in step 330, it is sent to a call database *e.g.*, call database 1811 shown in Figure 3c along with the addresses and style properties of the users. The style properties govern the behavior of a call server 18 in various aspects of the dialog with a user. Call server 18 queries call database 1811 for current call requests and places new call requests in its queue.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 3a depicts an embodiment of a system according to one embodiment of the present invention. Preferably, the system comprises database system 12, a DSS server 14, voice server 16, a call server 18, subscription interface 20, and other out input/files 24.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 27-78:

--27. (Newly added) A system for providing information to a subscriber of a service, comprising:

service processing means for processing at least one service to identify service output information;

service subscription means for enabling at least one subscriber to subscribe to the at least one service, and to specify delivery parameters for receiving service output information, the delivery parameters including at least one device to which service output information is to be delivered, and delivery instructions based on a detected recipient;

communication means for attempting to establish communication with the at least one device;

detection means for detecting a recipient of the communication; and

delivery means for delivering service output information based on the detected recipient and the delivery instructions.

28. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one service is processed when a delivery condition has been met.

29. (Newly added) The system of claim 28, wherein the delivery condition comprises at least one of a predetermined schedule, or a triggering event.

30. (Newly added) The system of claim 28, wherein the delivery condition is specified by at least one of a subscriber, or an administrator.

31. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the service output information comprises information derived from an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) system.

32. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the service output information comprises at least one of static text messages, dynamic content, blended content, sound clips, music, or advertisements.

33. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one device comprises a voice-enabled terminal device.

34. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one device comprises a voice-enabled terminal device, and the detected recipient comprises a person.

35. (Newly added) The system of claim 34, wherein the person is queried for validation information.

36. (Newly added) The system of claim 35, wherein the validation information is provided by at least one of voice input, or keypad input.

37. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one device comprises a voice-enabled terminal device, and the detected recipient comprises a machine.

38. (Newly added) The system of claim 37, wherein the machine comprises at least one of an answering machine, facsimile machine, or modem.

39. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the delivery parameters are specified by at least one of a subscriber, or an administrator.

40. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the delivery instructions enable the content of the service output information to be differentiated according to whether the detected recipient comprises a person or a machine.

41. (Newly added) The system of claim 40, wherein the content of the service output information to be provided when the detected recipient comprises a machine is reduced from the content of the service output information to be provided when the detected recipient comprises a person.

42. (Newly added) The system of claim 40, wherein the content of the service output information to be provided when the detected recipient comprises a machine is a message indicating that service output information intended for the at least one subscriber is available.

43. (Newly added) The system of claim 27, wherein the communication means comprises a call server for establishing communication with the at least one device by initiating a telephone call.

44. (Newly added) The system of claim 43, wherein the detection means comprises a detection module, the detection module sensing a state of a call pickup sequence of the telephone call.

45. (Newly added) The system of claim 44, wherein the state of a call pickup sequence comprises a plurality of possible states, and each of the possible states of the call pickup sequence is associated with a detected recipient and the delivery instructions for the detected recipient.

46. (Newly added) The system of claim 45, wherein the detection module further comprises a tone detection module, and each tone detected by the tone detection module is associated with at least one of the plurality of possible states.

47. (Newly added) The system of claim 46, wherein the tone detection module senses at least one of an answering machine tone, a facsimile machine tone, or a modem tone.

48. (Newly added) The system of claim 47, wherein the state of the call pickup sequence comprises at least one of receipt by a person, receipt by an answering machine, receipt by a facsimile machine, or receipt by a modem.

49. (Newly added) The system of claim 45, further comprising an interface to an authorization database, the authorization database storing entries associating each of the plurality of possible states with the corresponding detected recipient and the delivery instructions for the detected recipient.

50. (Newly added) The system of claim 49, wherein the association between the plurality of possible states and the corresponding detected recipients can be altered by at least one of an administrator, or a subscriber.

51. (Newly added) The system of claim 49, wherein the telephone call is aborted when the state of the call pickup sequence does not meet at least a minimum authorization criterion stored in the authorization database.

52. (Newly added) A system for providing information to a subscriber of a voice service, comprising:

voice service processing means for processing at least one voice service to identify voice service output information;

voice service subscription means for enabling at least one subscriber to subscribe to the at least one voice service, and to specify delivery parameters for receiving voice service output information, the delivery parameters including at least one device to which voice service output information is to be delivered, and delivery instructions based on a detected recipient;

communication means for establishing communication with the at least one device;

detection means for detecting a recipient of the communication; and

delivery means for delivering voice service output information based on the detected recipient and the delivery instructions.

53. (Newly added) A system for the selection of voice messages for delivery to a voice service subscriber, comprising:

voice service processing means for processing at least one voice service to generate output content when at least one predetermined condition has been met;

voice service subscription means for enabling a plurality of voice service subscribers to subscribe to the at least one voice service, and for enabling a subscriber to specify the at least one predetermined condition;

communication means for initiating a telephone call to a subscriber to deliver voice service output content to the subscriber when the at least one predetermined condition has been met;

detection means for detecting a state of a call pickup sequence of the telephone call delivering the output content; and

selection means, in communication with the detection means, for selecting at least one of a plurality of voice messages to deliver according to the state of the call pickup sequence detected by the detection means.

54. (Newly added) A method for providing information to a subscriber of a service, comprising the steps of:

(a) processing at least one service to identify service output information;

(b) enabling at least one subscriber to subscribe to the at least one service and specify delivery parameters for receiving service output information, the delivery parameters including at least one device to which service output information is to be delivered, and delivery instructions based on a detected recipient;

(c) establishing communication with the at least one device;

(d) detecting a recipient of the communication; and

(e) delivering service output information based on the detected recipient and the delivery instructions.

55. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the at least one service is processed when a delivery condition has been met.

56. (Newly added) The method of claim 55, wherein the delivery condition comprises at least one of a predetermined schedule, or a triggering event.

57. (Newly added) The method of claim 55, wherein the delivery condition is specified by at least one of a subscriber, or an administrator.

58. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the service output information comprises information derived from an on-line analytical processing (OLAP) system.

59. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the service output information comprises at least one of static text messages, dynamic content, blended content, sound clips, music, or advertisements.

60. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the at least one device comprises a voice-enabled terminal device.

61. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the at least one device comprises a voice-enabled terminal device, and the detected recipient comprises a person.

62. (Newly added) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of querying the person for validation information.

63. (Newly added) The method of claim 62, further comprising the step of providing the validation information by at least one of voice input, or keypad input.

64. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the at least one device comprises a voice-enabled terminal device, and the detected recipient comprises a machine.

65. (Newly added) The method of claim 64, wherein the machine comprises at least one of an answering machine, facsimile machine, or modem.

66. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the delivery parameters are specified by at least one of a subscriber, or an administrator.

67. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the delivery instructions enable the content of the service output information to be differentiated according to whether the detected recipient comprises a person or a machine.

68. (Newly added) The method of claim 67, wherein the content of the service output information to be provided when the detected recipient comprises a machine is reduced from the content of the service output information to be provided when the detected recipient comprises a person.

69. (Newly added) The method of claim 67, wherein the content of the service output information to be provided when the detected recipient comprises a machine is a message indicating that service output information intended for the at least one subscriber is available.

70. (Newly added) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of establishing communication further comprises a call server initiating a telephone call with the at least one device.

71. (Newly added) The method of claim 70, wherein the step of detecting a recipient further comprises a detection module sensing a state of a call pickup sequence of the telephone call.

72. (Newly added) The method of claim 71, wherein the state of a call pickup sequence comprises a plurality of possible states, and each of the possible states of the call pickup sequence is associated with a detected recipient and the delivery instructions for the detected recipient.

73. (Newly added) The method of claim 72, wherein the detection module further comprises a tone detection module, and each tone detected by the tone detection module is associated with at least one of the plurality of possible states.

74. (Newly added) The method of claim 73, wherein the tone detection module senses at least one of an answering machine tone, a facsimile machine tone, or a modem tone.

75. (Newly added) The method of claim 74, wherein the state of the call pickup sequence comprises at least one of receipt by a person, receipt by an answering machine, receipt by a facsimile machine, or receipt by a modem.

76. (Newly added) The method of claim 72, further comprising an interface to an authorization database, the authorization database storing entries associating each of the plurality of possible states with the corresponding detected recipient and the delivery instructions for the detected recipient.

77. (Newly added) The method of claim 76, wherein the association between the plurality of possible states and the corresponding detected recipients can be altered by at least one of an administrator, or a subscriber.

78. (Newly added) The method of claim 76, wherein the telephone call is aborted when the state of the call pickup sequence does not meet at least a minimum authorization criterion stored in the authorization database.--

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-26 have been cancelled, and claims 27-78 have been newly added. Therefore, claims 27-78 are pending. Applicants have also amended the Specification to correct minor typographical errors.

Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY, AND POPEO, PC

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ATTACHMENT A

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The following new paragraph has been inserted before the first paragraph of the application:

Cross-Reference To Related Applications

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/455,527, filed December 7, 1999, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THE CREATION AND AUTOMATIC DEPLOYMENT OF PERSONALIZED, DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE VOICE SERVICES WITH CUSTOMIZED MESSAGE DEPENDING ON RECIPIENT."--

The paragraph beginning at page 30, line 15, has been amended as follows:

In step [220] 230, the duration of the service is also set. Service duration indicates the starting and stopping dates for the service. Setting a service duration may be appropriate regardless of whether a scheduled service or alert type service has been selected. The start date is the base line for the scheduled calculation, while the end date indicates when the voice service will no longer be sent. The service may start immediately or at some later time. According to one embodiment, the interface is provided to allow the administrator to input start and end dates. The interface may also allow the administrator to indicate that the service should start immediately or run indefinitely. Various calendar features may be provided to

facilitate selection of start and stop dates. For example, a calendar that specifies a date with pull-down menus that allow selection of a day, month and year may be provided according to known methods of selecting dates in such programs as electronic calendar programs and scheduling programs used in other software products. One specific aid that may be provided is to provide a calendar with a red circle indicating the present date and a blue ellipse around the current numerical date in each subsequent month to more easily allow the user to identify monthly intervals. Other methods may also be used.

The paragraph beginning at page 34, line 7, has been amended as follows:

Servers may have limited capacity to perform all of the actions required of them simultaneously, the method of Figure [1bcomprises] 1b comprises a step for prioritizing the execution and delivery of voice services. Prioritization may establish the order in which the voice service system allocates resources for processing voice service and delivering the IVB. According to one embodiment, assigning priority to a voice service establishes priority for queries to the database system, formatting the voice service, or IVBs. Any criteria may be used for establishing priority. According to one embodiment, priority is established based on service content. According to another embodiment, priority is based on service destination. According to another embodiment, priority may be established based on the type of voice service, *i.e.*, alert v. scheduled. Any number of procedures or criteria for denoting relative importance of service delivery may be established.

The paragraph beginning at page 36, line 12, has been amended as follows:

After a call structure is generated, in step 330, it is sent to a call database *e.g.*, call database 1811 shown in Figure [3calong] 3c along with the addresses and style properties of the users. The style properties govern the behavior of a call server 18 in various aspects of the dialog with a user. Call server 18 queries call database 1811 for current call requests and places new call requests in its queue.

The paragraph beginning at page 38, line 3, has been amended as follows:

Fig. [3] 3a depicts an embodiment of a system according to one embodiment of the present invention. Preferably, the system comprises database system 12, a DSS server 14, voice server 16, a call server 18, subscription interface 20, and other out input/files 24.